Claim Listing

1-50.　(Canceled).

51.　(Currently Amended)　A data processing system for supporting web-based commerce and commission tracking on a multi-node network comprising:

a first affiliate website operated by a first affiliate server, the first affiliate server operable to generate the first affiliate website for displaying data comprising promotions and a plurality of other information on one or morea web pages associated with the first affiliate website;

a second affiliate website operated by a second affiliate server, the second affiliate server operable to generate the second affiliate website for displaying data comprising promotions and a plurality of other information on one or morea web pages associated with the second affiliate website;

a clearinghouse server in direct communication with each of said first and second affiliate servers sites, said clearinghouse server operable to parse HTTP commands data received from each of said first and second affiliate websites, said HTTP commands data including an affiliate field comprising one or more subvariables indicating referral activity; and

a merchant server operable to generate a merchant website and operable to process an electronic transaction via said merchant website, the merchant server in communication with said clearinghouse server, wherein said merchant server site is operable to obtain information indicating triggered by each of said first and second affiliate websites from said clearinghouse server and said merchant server site is operable to submit information to said clearinghouse server relating to affiliate referral activity on said merchant website;

wherein said clearinghouse server is operable to assign compensation to each of both said first affiliate website and said second affiliate website in response to (i) a network-connected user's use of a primary referral link provided by said first affiliate website to reach said second affiliate website; (ii) said user's use of a secondary referral link provided by said second affiliate website to reach said merchant website; and (iii) said user's completion of the electronica transaction with said merchant site.

52. (New)   The data processing system of claim 51 wherein compensation is assigned to the first affiliate website and the second affiliate website in equal shares.

53. (New)   The data processing system of claim 51 wherein compensation assigned to the first affiliate website comprises a majority portion of a commission associated with said user's completion of the electronic transaction, and compensation assigned to the second affiliate website comprises a minority portion of a commission associated with said user's completion of the electronic transaction.

54. (New)   The data processing system of claim 51 further comprising a database communicatively coupled to the clearinghouse server, the database operable to store data associated with the first affiliate website and the second affiliate website.

55. (New)   The data processing system of claim 54 wherein the database is further operable to store data associated with compensation assigned to the first affiliate website and the second affiliate website.

56. (New)   The data processing system of claim 51 wherein said clearinghouse server is further operable to recommend said first affiliate website or said second affiliate to said user upon completion of the electronic transaction.

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